

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

When it rains, it drains. Stormwater is not treated before it enters our waterways. Wastewater from carpet cleaning can contain dirt, soap, oil, solvents and other toxic chemicals. When in our waterways these chemicals can cause harm to plants, animals, and humans. Water is a precious resource that we all need to protect.



YOU CAN HELP

Wastewater and residues from carpet cleaning must **never** be discharged into a gutter, drain, inlet, or waterway. Carpet cleaning businesses must take steps to prevent pollutants from entering our storm water system. This brochure contains simple steps for your carpet cleaning business to prevent the contamination of our environment.

Learn more at:

<https://coloradosprings.gov/stormwater>

Ask: Is your business part of the problem, or part of the solution?

All businesses and citizens in Colorado Springs have a role in keeping our water clean—our health and economy depend on it! Knowing your role will protect our waters, save money in fines, and prevent negative publicity about your business.

Choose one of the following disposal methods depending on the job:

1. Discharge wastewater to the sanitary sewer of the property where cleaning occurs, with property owner's permission. This on-site sanitary sewer can be accessed through a building drain, sewer, industrial sink, private sewer cleanout, private sampling manhole, or any other privately owned sanitary sewer access point.
2. Use a portable containment system. Wastewater can be kept in a holding tank to be hauled offsite and properly disposed of via the sanitary sewer system.

OTHER TIPS

- Train your employees on the content of this brochure and post signs around your workplace to remind employees of pollution prevention tips.
- Always filter wastewater before discharging into the sanitary sewer. Residue on the filter can be disposed of into the trash along with general waste.
- Use "green" or environmentally friendly agents and products.

REMEMBER...

While the individual business may only contribute minor amounts of pollution, the combined effect of a city is serious.

DID YOU KNOW...

Storm drains empty directly into our streams, lakes and waterways. It is dangerous and illegal to dispose of carpet cleaning wastewater in to a storm drain.



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I Need a Permit for My Carpet Cleaning Wastewater Discharges?

No. Discharges can be sent through the sanitary sewer system without a permit, but must be filtered first since fibers and other debris can clog pipes. Do not discharge to a septic system, as chemicals may cause system failures and contamination of groundwater and drinking water.

How Can I Make My Process More Environmentally Friendly?

Look for “non-toxic,” “green,” or “bio-degradable” agents in your products. This reduces exposure to toxins for the cleaners as well as the property owners. Be sure to follow the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning, and Restoration Certification standards when using “green” products. (www.iicrc.org).

Additionally, carpets should be cleaned using high temperatures (up to 250°F) and mild chemical agents. All wastewater, even from “green” products, must still be disposed in the sanitary sewer system.



STORMWATER NEEDS YOU... MORE WAYS TO HELP:

There are many ways to help protect the water in our community as well as for those downstream. Here are a few tips to keep in mind:

- ◆ Minimize hard surfaces and keep them clean
- ◆ Prevent pollution, remember: *Only Rain Down the Drain!*
- ◆ Monitor your curb/catch basin or ditch by removing sand, grass clippings, debris and litter
- ◆ Pick up after your pet
- ◆ Use the right amount of fertilizer at the right time (not before a rain storm!)
- ◆ Wash your car at a commercial carwash or on the lawn with environmentally-friendly soap, not on a hard surface
- ◆ Dispose of hazardous materials properly
- ◆ Maintain your vehicles to prevent leaks
- ◆ Sweep grass clippings back onto the lawn, or compost them
- ◆ Put trash, including cigarette butts, in its place...not in a creek or storm drain.
- ◆ **Report spills or dumping** at the spill hotline: 719-491-6096

Learn more at:

www.coloradosprings.gov/stormwater

Commercial Carpet Cleaning



Report Spills & Dumping
For Clean Waterways

719-385-5980

<https://coloradosprings.gov/stormwater>